

St Vincent's Parish, Ashfield

A parish under the pastoral care of The Congregation of the Mission known as Vincentian priests and brothers.
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Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

April 9, 2017

Reflection What Cross are You carrying?

Jesus had the interesting and challenging idea that if we were to take up our cross everyday and follow him, then we'd get what he was on about. The strange paradox of the cross has served to shape us in one way or another since the beginning of our Christian story. As we move into Holy Week this year once more, it may be of value to stop and listen out for the shape that the cross has for each of us at this time, to reflect on what this means for us and to unpack the ways in which we may do well to respond, in other words, to pick up our cross each day as Jesus suggests. So what is my cross that I am carrying now? Perhaps it is the cross of regret, or unfulfilled dreams, or relationships that did not go where I had hoped, of tasks left undone, of life's bargains I failed to snap up! My cross may be one that is couched in illness, short or long-term, physical, emotional, mental. People try to help. Professionals lend their expertise, family ache for me, but in the end no one knows my suffering - well no one save the one who carried his cross for me in the first place. My cross may be carved in anger, anger at myself, at family, society or the church! Aristotle, a lad who had a few clues in his day, used to reckon that anger was one of God's best gifts, so long as we used it for the right length of time, against the right persons and only for that length of time "that principle may ordain!!"

My cross may be found in the shape of my child crippled with drug addiction, my mother incapacitated by Parkinson's disease, my partner in the grip of addiction to alcohol, my nephew or niece paralysed by the memory of sexual abuse. I might just be getting old and my body isn't what it once was and that is the grief for me. Even getting out of the car takes thought and time!! The one with whom I shared the best of my life is no longer here, and I fill my days with busyness, grandchildren, networking, and at night my beloved is still not here to hold me. It is precisely here that each of us has a choice, not an easy one, not one that occurs to us right away, but nonetheless, one that is waiting for us when the time is right. Jesus takes up his cross, stays with it until its work is done, and ever so irreverently decides that the game is not over yet. He rises from the dead and in that lies his invitation to us, his naming of the fact that each of us has a choice.

I can stay angry with myself, the church, my mother-in-law, my recalcitrant children. I can stay obsessing about my health until my life is measured by the daily medications I am required to take to keep myself in this state of misery. I can keep getting older with no thought of thankfulness for what is and has been, but with a focus only on what I am losing and might lose. I can spend times with the memories of my loved ones in a spirit of regret rather than gratitude so that all the joys in these memories are squeezed out.

I can forget that there are still people in need of my love, people who can benefit from the wisdom I have gained through the years, people whose lives may well be enriched from brushing up against my story somehow. What cross are you carrying as you enter this Holy Week? Are you carrying it just for yourself or for the ones Jesus seems to have been making his focus? Have a good one - a really good one!

Fr Kevin Bates sm

Easter Sunday 10am Mass Two students from Bethlehem College will receive sacraments of initiation at next Sunday Mass at 10am.

Vacancy on Parish Finance Committee

A vacancy now exists on our Parish Finance Committee. The Committee meets every three months and the meeting duration is 60-90 minutes. Please see Fr. Alan if you are interested.

2017 Annual Parish Dinner will be held on Saturday night, 6th May in the De La Salle/ Bethlehem Hall. All Parishioners are invited to attend. Start looking for something purple, mauve or green to wear!!!

COLLECT YOUR INVITATION NOW FOR THE PARISH EVENT OF THE YEAR!!! Please take your invitation even if you cannot attend the dinner. Thank you!

Mass of the Oils at St Mary's Cathedral There will be no mass in the Parish at 9am on Holy Thursday morning 13th April 2017. Parishioners are invited to attend the Mass of the Oils at St Mary's cathedral on that day at 10.30am.



Sandstone Cross Parishioners may have noticed the sandstone cross outside on the side of the Church near the Presbytery. It was once on top of our Church but had to be taken down for safety reasons as it was unstable. I recently obtained a quote to have it replaced. The cost is \$15,000.00. Please let me know if you feel the cost is worth it. Also open to other suggestions as to placing the cross in an alternative location.

After School Care I wish to advise of a change of After School Care Operator. Extend (Australia) Pty Ltd concluded operations with the parish last Friday 7th April. Weldon Children's Services will commence providing After School Care in the parish in Term Two. They are currently in the process of applying for a licence to use our premises and hopefully will be able to commence on the first day of Term Two which is Monday 24th April.

Parish Men's Group will meet next **Tuesday night (April 11th) at 7:30pm** in the Parish Meeting Rooms. An informal gathering of discussion and prayer. All new and past participants would be most welcome.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS FOR APRIL

11th April Jewish Passover begins 1963: Pope John XXIII's encyclical *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth)

12th April International Day of Human Space Flight

Parish Masses this week:

Monday 12 noon

Tuesday 7:00am

Wednesday 12 noon

Thursday No Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday 8:10am to 8:40am

Saturday No Mass

Sunday: 8am, 10:00am 6:00pm

Polish Mass 12 noon

Cardinal Freeman Village Chapel

Sunday 9.00 am Tuesdays and Wednesdays 4:00pm.

Friday 9:00am Communion Service.



Thursday 13th April (Holy Thursday)

Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:00pm

Friday 14th April (Good Friday)

Stations of the Cross

10:00am

(Church & Ashfield Park)

Polish - Stations of the Cross

12 noon

The Passion of the Lord

3:00pm

Saturday 15th April (Holy Saturday)

Reconciliation

8:00am—9:30am

RCIA Prayer & Preparation

for Easter Vigil

9:30am

Polish - Easter Food Blessing

12 noon

EASTER VIGIL MASS

6:00pm

Sunday 16th April (Easter Sunday)

Easter Sunday Masses 8:00am, 10:00am & 6:00pm

Polish - Easter Sunday Mass

12 noon

TAKE ACTION — SYDNEY ALLIANCE ASSEMBLY

You are invited to an inspiring, powerful action for concrete change on affordable housing & public transport. This action takes place on the evening of **May 4th at 6:30pm to 8:00pm at Eastwood Uniting Church, 14-16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood 2122.** The NSW Planning & Housing Minister, Anthony Roberts MP has the power to make affordable housing a reality in NSW. Alliance leaders confirmed that he will attend on May 4th.

Will you attend May 4th to physically demonstrate your support for affordable housing and better public transport? Please see Fr. Alan for details and if you would like to attend but require transport.

The Bible Timeline is a Catholic Bible study that can help *anyone* to make sense of Scripture and experience the life-changing power of God's Word. This study takes you on a journey through the entire Bible and deep into each period of salvation history, where you will discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture.

Holy Innocents Croydon will begin *The Timeline* on 29 May 2017 at 7:00pm. For more information or to register for the study please contact Maria Daniele on 0414 560 951 until 4 April and thereafter Belinda Hume on 0418 864 290. Also more information is available on the noticeboard in the Church foyer.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Hosanna to the Son of God; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest.

FIRST READING: I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed (Isaiah 50:4-7)

PSALM: **My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?** (Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24)

SECOND READING: He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high (Philippians 2:6-11)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (Matthew 26:14-27:66)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.



Next Sunday's Readings Sunday of the Resurrection

Acts 10:34, 37-43

Psalms 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-9